

What is claimed is:

1. A system for provisioning electronic field guides comprising:

a portable computing device having:

- a visual display;
- an end user input interface; and
- a memory;

a stationary computer having:

- a visual display;
- an end user input interface; and
- a memory;

means for interconnecting said stationary computer and said portable computing device;

said stationary computer being operable to:

- present multiple data items to an end user; and
- respond to the selection of particular ones of said multiple data items by said end user, by:
 - downloading multimedia data files corresponding to said particular ones of said multiple data items, to said portable computing device via said means for interconnecting; and

said portable computing device being operable to:

- present a listing of said downloaded multiple data items; and
- respond to the selection of one of said downloaded multiple data items by playing said corresponding multimedia data file.

2. A method for provisioning electronic field guides comprising the steps of:

presenting multiple data items to an end user, via the display of a stationary computer; and

responding to the selection of particular ones of said multiple data items by said user, by:

- downloading multimedia data files corresponding to said particular ones of said multiple data items, to a portable computing device;

whereby said portable computing device may present the multimedia content to the end user in the field.

3. The method of claim 2 in which said multimedia content includes images and text, whereby images can be viewed on said portable computing device.

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4. The method of claim 2 in which said multimedia content includes audio files, whereby sounds may be reproduced on said portable computing device.
5. The method of claim 2 in which said stationary computer is a personal computer.
6. The method of claim 2 in which said stationary computer is an information kiosk providing said content in exchange for some form of payment.
7. The method of claim 2 in which said multimedia data files are stored on a CD-rom.
8. The method of claim 2 in which updates to said multimedia data files are accessed over an Internet network.
9. The method of claim 2 in which said multimedia data files are stored remotely from said stationary computer and are accessed over an Internet network.
10. A portable electronic field guide comprising:
display means for displaying a digital image;
speaker means for audibly reproducing a digital audio data file;
memory means for storing digital content to produce said digital image and said digital audio data;
communication means for downloading said digital content from a stationary computer, said digital content being selected from a more comprehensive database on said stationary computer; and
power supply means for powering said display means, speaker means, memory means and communication means.
11. The portable electronic field guide of claim 10, further comprising:
processing means responsive to an instruction from an end user by:
accessing said digital content stored in said memory means; and
displaying said digital image corresponding to said digital content, on said display means.
12. The portable electronic field guide of claim 10, further comprising:

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processing means responsive to an instruction from an end user by:

accessing said digital content stored in said memory means; and

playing said digital audio data corresponding to said digital content, on said display means.